ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

TALLADEGA DISTRICT

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION,

1882.

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TALLADEGA DISTRICT

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

TALLADEGA, ALA., July 25th, 1882.

The Talladega, or Sixth District Sunday School Convention of Alabama, met in the Baptist Church in the town of Talladega, Talladega County, Alabama, on Tuesday, July 25, at 8:15 o'clock, P. M., in response to the call of the committee, consisting of Dr. M. J. Greene, of Talladega; J. M. Caldwell, of Jacksonville; and J. W. Bishop, of Talladega, appointed by the State convention held in Opelika during last May, for the purpose of organizing the Talladega District. The counties of Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Randolph, Shelby, St. Clair, and Talladega compose the Sixth District. All were represented in the convention except Clay, DeKalb and Randolph.

The Exercises were opened with a sermon by Rev. S. L. Russell, A. M., of Gaylesville, on "Oneness in Christ." The sermon was appropriate in showing that all christians are necessarily one in purpose and spirit, and that they should work together harmoniously in evangelizing the world.

Dr. Greene, the chairman of the committee and *ex officio* President of the convention appointed G. A. Joiner, R. H. Isbell and J. W. May committee on credentials and B. F. Pope, Esq., I. D. Mason, F. C. Finch, H. C. Howell and G. S.

Ham committee on permanent organization.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock Wednesday morning.

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Wednesday, July 26th, 1882.

The convention was called to order by the President, Dr. Greene, at 9 o'clock.

W. B. Witherspoon, of Howel's Cross Roads, Cherokee County, was requested by the President to act as Secretary.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Rev. M. E. Butt, of Columbiana.

Topic: "The work to be done," opened by Dr. Greene, continued by Revs. S. L. Russell and F. J. Tyler. Songs: "To the Work," and "Take the Name of Jesus with you."

The committee on credentials made the following report of delegates: Calhoun County—J. F. Mathis, W. W. Whiteside, Thos. Anderson, Mrs. J. F. Mathis, Miss Carrie Luttrell, J. E. Wright, W. B. Gray, Miss Roberta Cooper, Miss Flora Howle, Wm. A. Orr, Miss Fannie Gladden, Miss Ella King, Oxford; John M. Crook, C. J. Porter, Ed. G. Caldwell, Jacksonville; J. T. Jones, Jones' Institute; J. M. Bowles, Cane Creek.

Cherokee—M. M. Russell, Rev. S. L. Russell, Gaylesville; John S. Watt, Cedar Bluff; S. C. Lokey, Mrs. S. C. Lokey, Centre; Mrs. John T. Stocks, Pleasant Gap; W. B. Witherspoon, H. C. Howel, Howel's Cross Roads.

Cleburne—T. A. Howell, Howell's Chapel.

Etowah—B. F. Pope, Esq., Gadsden.

St. Clair—S. T. Killgore, A. F. Moore, Rev. L. Law, A. O. Watson, J. D. Truss, Jr.

Shelby—H. P. Watson, H. C. Phillips, R. M. Borrum, Harpersville; I. D. Mason, Rev. M. E. Butt, Miss Johnnie Butt, Miss Etta Mason, Columbiana; F. C. Finch, Rev. F. J. Tyler, Misses Sophie Brown, Julia Satterfield, L. Burks, B. Allen, Carrie Allen, Lena Henry, Fannie Kiel, Shelby Iron Works; Rev. J. J. Strong, American Sunday School Union Missionary for Alabama, Calera; D. D. Warlick; B. O. Phillips, Locus Vitæ; J. A. Edwards, Good Hope.

Talladega—G. S. Ham, Miss Mollie Ham, Miss H. B.

Wallace, Sylacauga; Prof. J. C. Wilson, Blue Eye; J. T. Huston, J. A. McDonald, S. B. Goggins, Pleasant Grove; Mastin Rowe, J. E. Allison, Salem; J. W. Bowman, T. W. Reagan, Union School House; G. A. Joiner, C. W. Stringer, N. S. McAfee, R. A. Moseley, Jr., John C. Williams, Miss Annie Renfroe, Miss Carrie Elston, Mrs. McGaha, Mrs. John C. Williams, J. J. D. Renfroe, D. D., Mrs. Kate D. Smith, W. T. Thornton, N. J. Hubbard, J. W. May, T. S. Plowman, Rev. Daniel Duncan, Dr. J. H. Vandiver, Mrs. E. A. Stephens, Dr. M. J. Greene, Mrs. G. W. Chambers, Mrs. Lou Williams, R. H. Isbell, R. H. McAlpine, Miss Lydia Borden, Mrs. J. C. Knox, Rev. F. L. Ewing, Mrs. Pauline DuBose, Miss Laura McAlpine, G. S. Walden, Talladega.

Dr. Greene read a paper from Dr. Johnson inviting the convention to visit the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, and to meet at their pleasure in the chapel of the Institution for song service.

The convention accepted the invitation with thanks to Dr. Johnson, and set this afternoon at 5 o'clock to visit the Institution.

The committee on permanent organization reported: For President, Rev. F. J. Tyler, of Shelby Iron Works; For Vice Presidents, J. M. Caldwell, of Calhoun; J. S. Watt, of Cherokee; Hon. Martin Evans, of Clay; Rev. Mr. Howell, of Cleburne; Rev. John B. Appleton, of DeKalb; Prof. A. B. Goodhue, of Etowah; F. P. Randle, of Randolph; Hon. John T. Leeper, of Shelby; Rev. L. Law, of St. Clair; J. M. Thornton, of Talladega. For Treasurer, R. H. Isbell. For Secretary, Rev. W. B. Witherspoon. For Assistant Secretary F. C. Finch. For Statistical Secretary, Dr. M. J. Greene.

Report was adopted.

Rev. Mr. Tyler accepted the Presidency in a short speech and assumed the duties of the Chair.

Dr. Greene, Rev. S. L. Russell and G. S. Ham were appointed committee on business.

On call of counties, reports were received as follows:

Calhoun.—Reported by John M. Crook. Organized in 1879.

Cherokee.—W. B. Witherspoon; organized in 1880. Has 30 schools, with 1,831 members. Prospects good.

Cleburne.—T. A. Howel; think it is organized—a meeting was called for that purpose.

Clay.—J. J. Strong; organized in 1878.

DeKalb.—No report; think it is not organized.

Etowah.—B. F. Pope; organized, but not doing much.

Randolph.—J. J. Strong; organized.

Shelby.—F. J. Tyler; organized. Has 1,760 members. Doing well.

St. Clair.—Rev. L. Law; organized in 1881.

Talladega.—J. M. Thornton; organized in 1878. Has about 1,800 members.

Took recess to 3:30 o'clock.

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WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

Convention was called to order at 3:30 o'clock by F. J. Tyler, the President. Song—Prayer—Song.

Committee on permanent organization reported an Executive Committee, which after discussion and some changes, was adopted. The following is the report as adopted: J. M. Caldwell, of Jacksonville, Chairman; Jas. Gillespie, of Talladega county; J. A. Greene, of Etowah; Hon. E. J. Robinson, of St. Clair; E. T. Witherby, of Shelby.

Address on "Our District Work," by Rev. J. J. Strong. Song.

Circulated question box.

On motion the work of selecting time and place for next meeting of the Convention was placed in the power of the Executive Committee.

On call for money to defray the expenses of the Convention responses were made as follows:

Salem Union Sunday School	$ 65
Columbiana M. E. Sunday School	1 40
Good Hope Sunday School	1 00
Oxford Presbyterian Sunday School	2 00
Jacksonville Presbyterian Sunday School	1 50
Union School House Sunday School	60
Coosa River Sunday School	1 40
Harpersville Sunday School	50
Cedar Bluff Sunday School	1 00
Ferryville Sunday School	1 75
Oxford Baptist Sunday School	2 00
Talladega M. E. Sunday School	1 00

Song. Benediction. Took recess to 8:15 this evening. Visited the Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind.

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WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Convention was called to order by the President at 8:15 o'clock. Song, "Nearer, my God, to Thee." Prayer by Dr. Renfroe. Song, "We'll Work till Jesus comes."

Address on "Call to the Work—Importance of Bible study by all—Necessity for all Christians to work," by Rev. S. L. Russell. Song, "Work for the night is coming."

Business committee reported programme for to-morrow morning. Song. Benediction. Adjourned.

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THURSDAY MORNING, July 27th, 1882.

Convention was called to order by the President at 9 o'clock. Song, "The Great Physician." Devotional exercises. Some irregular discussion.

I. D. Mason, Dr. Greene and S. C. Lokey were appointed a committee on basis of representation in the Convention.

Minutes read, corrected and adopted. Address on topic: "Difficulties in our work and how to meet them," by Prof. J. L. Dodson. Song.

Question box was opened. Questions were answered by Rev. S. L. Russell. Had quite an interesting discussion on some of the questions.

Committee on basis of representation reported as follows:

"Each organized county shall be entitled to eight delegates in the District Convention, and the President and Statistical Secretary of each county shall be *ex officio* members of the District Convention. In counties not organized each Sunday School shall be entitled to one delegate in the District Convention." Adopted.

The committee on credentials reported the following additional delegates present:

W. R. McCary, James D. Cosper, W. P. Farr, Miss Sallie

Nelson, from Shelby; M. H. Porter, James A. Hitt, N. B. Linder, J. M. Thornton, James Gillespy, from Talladega; Rev. A. W. McGaha, Prof. J. L. Dodson, G. P. Gunnels, from Calhoun county.

Adjourned to 8:15 o'clock this evening.

Doxology. Benediction.

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THURSDAY EVENING, 8:15 O'CLOCK.

Convention was called to order by the first Vice President, John S. Watt. Song. Prayer by Rev. S. L. Russell.

Song, "Are you coming home to-night?"

Short voluntary speeches were made by several members of the Convention.

M. M. Sweatt, G. W. C. T. of Alabama, a visitor to the Convention, made a short speech.

Resolutions of thanks to the people of Talladega for hospitable entertainment and to Dr. Renfroe and his church for the use of their beautiful house of worship, offered by I. D. Mason were unanimously adopted.

The Secretary was requested to furnish the newspapers in the District with report of the proceedings of the Convention, and to have the minutes published in pamphlet form. A collection was taken up amounting to $7.70.

The Convention adjourned to meet at the call of the Executive Committee. Song, "We 're going home to-morrow."

Benediction by Rev. Mr. Tyler.

F. J. TYLER, PRESIDENT.

W. B. WITHERSPOON, Secretary.

HISTORICAL ITEMS.

The first National Sunday School Convention of the United States was held in New York, October 3–5, 1832—Hon. Theo. Frelinghuysen, of New Jersey, President.

The second was held in Philadelphia, May 22–23, 1833—Hon. Willard Hall, of Delaware, President.

The third in Philadelphia, February 22–24, 1859—ex-Gov. James Pollock, of Pennsylvania, President.

The fourth in Newark, New Jersey, April 28–30, 1869—Hon. George H. Stuart, of Pennsylvania, President.

The fifth in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 16–19, 1872—Prof. P. G. Gilbert, LL. D., of Illinois, President.

The first International Convention was held in Baltimore, Md., May 11–13, 1875—Rev. George A. Peltz, of New Jersey, President.

Second in Atlanta, Ga., April 17–19, 1878—Gov. A. H. Colquit, of Georgia, President.

Third in Totonto, Canada, June 22–24, 1881—Hon. S. H. Blake, Toronto, President.

The aim of the International Convention as it regards the United States is to organize and unite every state and territory in the Sunday School work.

It is designed that each state and territory have a Union or Interdenominational Association of its own, and send delegates to the International Convention. That each county have its Association and report and send delegates to the State Convention. That each township have an Association and send delegates and make report to the County Convention.

Alabama has held five State Conventions. At the Opelika Convention last May the state was divided into 7 Districts. Our Township Associations should now send delegates to the District, the District to the State, and the State to the International Convention.

For further information and statistics of Sunday Schools address E. Payson Porter, 725 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

For report of the last International Convention send 25 cents to Biglow & Main, 76 East Ninth street, New York.

W. B. WITHERSPOON, Secretary.